

RULES CHANGES

State Need Grant, State Work Study, Promise Scholarship

September 2002

BACKGROUND

Legislation adopted during the 2002 Legislative Session requires that the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for the State Need Grant, State Work Study, and Promise Scholarship programs be amended. At its June 11 meeting, the Board adopted emergency rules in order to allow implementation of the statutory amendments for the 2002-2003 academic year. At its September 25, 2002, meeting the Board is asked to adopt the permanent rules.

Following is a summary of the changes needed to comply with those adopted by the Legislature.

STATE NEED GRANT

Substitute Senate Bill 5166 expands the definition of “institutions of higher education” to include branches of out-of-state institutions that meet the following criteria:

- The parent institution must be a member institution of an accrediting association recognized by rule of the Board;
- It must be eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs;
- The institution must have operated as a nonprofit college or university delivering on-site classroom instruction in Washington for a minimum of 20 years;
- It must have an annual enrollment of at least 700 full-time-equivalent students; and
- Like all other institutions, it must agree to, and comply with, all program rules and regulations.

It appears that only one institution, Antioch University-Seattle, currently meets the amended statutory requirements. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited Antioch University.

State Need Grant rules currently recognize one of the six regional accrediting associations (the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges), and all of the specialized associations that accredit career colleges in Washington. To extend State Need Grant eligibility to students attending Antioch Seattle, the agency must modify its rules to recognize the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

However, because institutions accredited by other regional associations may become eligible in the future to participate in the State Need Grant program, staff propose that the State Need Grant rules be amended to recognize all six regional accrediting associations. There is little to distinguish one regional association from another, and referencing each in the rules eliminates the need to make future amendments on a case-by-case basis.

STATE WORK STUDY

Substitute Senate Bill 5166 also amends “eligible institution” for purposes of the State Work Study program. The amendatory language is essentially the same as in the revision to the State Need Grant statute, except that it does not specify that institutions qualifying under this amendment must enroll a minimum of 700 full-time-equivalent students to participate in the State Work Study program.

For the reasons cited above, staff propose that the State Work Study rules be amended to recognize each of the six regional accrediting associations.

PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Prior to the 2002 Legislative Session, language authorizing the Promise Scholarship program had been included in the 1999-01 and 2001-03 biennial budget bills, but the program had not been created in statute. The HECB adopted administrative rules implementing program provisions as specified in the budget bills.

House Bill 2807, enacted by the 2002 Legislature, established the Promise Scholarship program in statute and modified some program features. Staff propose the following changes to bring the Promise Scholarship rules into compliance with the new statute:

- **Academic Eligibility Criteria.** Program rules should be amended to indicate that, to be considered for a Promise Scholarship, an otherwise eligible student must have:
 - Graduated from a public or private high school in Washington in the top 15 percent of his or her graduating class;
 - Attained a cumulative score of 1,200 or better on the Scholastic Achievement Test I (SAT I) on the first attempt; or
 - Attained a cumulative score of 27 or better on the American College Test (ACT) on the first attempt.
- **Eligible Institutions.** Staff propose amending the rules to address two issues:
 - HB 2807 authorizes use of the scholarship by recipients attending Oregon institutions that are part of the border county higher education opportunity project when those institutions offer programs not available at accredited institutions of higher education in Washington.
 - For consistency with the State Need Grant and State Work Study programs, staff propose that Promise Scholarship rules be amended to recognize all six regional accrediting associations.
- **Standard for Satisfactory Progress.** SHB 2807 allows the Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish satisfactory progress standards for scholarship renewal. Staff propose that Promise Scholarship rules require recipients to be in good standing at the institution they attend, in order to renew their scholarships.

RULEMAKING PROCESS

Following the Board's June 11, 2002, approval of the emergency rules, they were duly filed with State Code Reviser's office. Subsequently, the public was invited to comment on the proposed permanent rules, in writing, and at a formal hearing convened to solicit public comment on the proposed rules.

A public hearing was held on Friday, August 23, 2002. No comments were received. Therefore, staff request adoption of the emergency rules as permanent rules by passing resolutions 02-26, 02-27, and 02-28.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-26

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is directed by RCW 28B.10 to administer the State Need Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is authorized by RCW 28B.80 to adopt rules as necessary to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, Substitute Senate Bill 5166 adopted by the 2002 Legislature expands the definition of “institutions of higher education” to include branches of out-of-state institutions that meet specified criteria and that are members of accrediting associations recognized by rule of the Board; and

WHEREAS, State Need Grant rules do not currently recognize five of the six regional associations that accredit institutions which may potentially be eligible to participate in the State Need Grant program; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to amend Chapter 250-20 WAC to implement this statutory change; and

WHEREAS, It is the Board’s intention that students attending institutions incorporated into the State Need Grant program as a result of this change be eligible for grants for the 2002-2003 academic year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board adopt permanent rules recognizing all six regional accrediting associations for the purpose of establishing potential institutional eligibility to participate in the State Need Grant program.

Adopted:

September 25, 2002

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Pat Stanford, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 02-27

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is directed by RCW 28B.12 to administer the State Work Study Program; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is authorized by RCW 28B.80 to adopt rules as necessary to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, Substitute Senate Bill 5166 adopted by the 2002 Legislature expands the definition of “institutions of higher education” to include branches of out-of-state institutions that meet specified criteria and that are members of accrediting associations recognized by rule of the Board; and

WHEREAS, State Work Study rules do not currently recognize five of the six regional associations that accredit institutions which may potentially be eligible to participate in the State Work Study program; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to amend Chapter 250-40 WAC to implement this statutory change; and

WHEREAS, It is the Board’s intention that students attending institutions incorporated into the State Work Study program as a result of this change be eligible for work study for the 2002-2003 academic year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board adopt permanent rules recognizing all six regional accrediting associations for purposes of establishing potential institutional eligibility to participate in the State Work Study program.

Adopted:

September 25, 2002

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Pat Stanford, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 02-28

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is directed by House Bill 2807 to administer the Washington Promise Scholarship Program and to adopt rules as necessary to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the 2002 Legislative Session, language authorizing the Promise Scholarship program had been included in the 1999-01 and 2001-03 biennial budget bills; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2807 established the Washington Promise Scholarship program in statute and modified some features of the program; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to amend Chapter 250-80 WAC to bring the Promise Scholarship program into compliance with the new statute by including reference to expanded academic eligibility criteria, use of the scholarship at certain Oregon institutions providing programs not offered in Washington, recognition of all six regional accrediting associations, and the satisfactory progress requirement for scholarship renewal; and

WHEREAS, It is the Board's intention that the expanded eligibility criteria be used to determine awards for the 2002-2003 academic year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board adopt permanent rules implementing the Washington Promise Scholarship Program.

Adopted:

September 25, 2002

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Pat Stanford, Secretary